

Remarks

1. Election

The October 22, 2004 communication sets forth three species: Species A, corresponding to figures 1-3; Species B, corresponding to figures 4-6; and Species C, corresponding to figures 7 and 8. Applicants hereby elect Species A corresponding to figures 1 – 3.

Applicants note that independent claims 1, 33, 48, 62, 77, 84, 89, and 94 are generic to all species identified by the Examiner. Based on the election, the claims currently pending for examination are 1 – 9, 13 – 16, 33 – 34, 37 – 48, 51 – 64, and 67 – 110. Species B, corresponding to figure 4 – 6, includes an auxiliary brush. Claims 10 – 12, 17 – 32, 35 – 36, 49 – 50, and 65 – 66 are withdrawn as corresponding to species B. Reinstatement of these claims is requested upon allowance of a generic claim. A complete listing of the claims, including the current status, is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

If necessary, Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional Application directed to the subject matter of the nonelected species prior to the issuance of a patent. An action on the merits is solicited.

2. Additional Comments

This Response is accompanied by an Information Disclosure Statement providing a translation of DE 1814398A submitted on October 19, 2004.

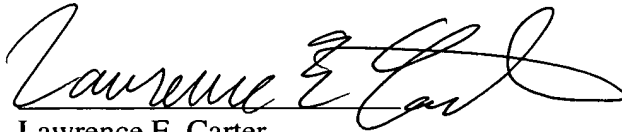
Applicants note that the following utility applications are currently pending at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: Serial Nos. 10/450,001; 10/697,570; 10/816,193; and 10/960,277.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a Petition for Extension of Time for the required time period.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence E. Carter", written in a cursive style.

Lawrence E. Carter
Reg. No. 51,532

Date: November 16, 2004

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